

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST QUP
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 0574

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SP, RP, YO, UR
SUBJECT: SPAIN RE ESTABLISHES DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ROMANIA OTHER
TO FOLLOW

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(NOTAL)

1. THE RESTABLISHMEN JANUARY 21 OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS
BETWEEN SPAIN AND ROMANIA SIGNALS THE CULMINATION OF
EFFORTS (WHICH BEGAN HALTINGLY UNDER FRANCO BUT ONLY TOOK
ON EFFECTIVENESS UNDER FOREIGN MINISTER AREILZA IN THE
FRIST POST FRANCO GOT) FOR SPAIN TO "NORMALIZE" RELATIONS
WITH THE EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. SIMILAR STEPS WITH
OTHERS ARE CERTAIN TO FOLLOW IN SHORT ORDER.

2. WITH IT INDEPENDENT IMAGE AND ITS CULTURE (ROMANCE
LANGUAGE) AFFINITIES WITH SPAIN, ROMANIA WAS AN OBVIOUS
CHOICE FOR THE ICE BREAKER. THE
ANNOUNCEMENT CAME JUST AFTER THE VISIT TO BUCHAREST OF
SPANISH TRADE MINISTER JOSE LLADO, WHO RETURNED TO MADRID
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WITH OPTIMISTIC WORDS FOR THE PRESS REGARDING FUTURE TRADE
RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, CALLING THE NEW TENYEAR
TRADE AGREEMENT(WHICH INCLUDES MOST FAVORED NATION TREATMENT)
"IMPORTANT", HINTING THAT THE SPANISH DEFICIT WITH
ROMAN COULD BE REVERSED SHORTLY, AND "NOT RULING OUT THE
POSSIBLIITY", ACCORDING TO ONE NEWSPAPER, THAT SPAIN COULD
REACH AN OVERALL AGRMENT WITH COMECON. REGARDING TRADE

WITH ROMANIA, SAID LLADO, THE SPANISH SECTORS MOST LIKELY TO BE HELPED WERE CAPITAL GOODS, STEEL AND MACHINERY.

3. THE RE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC TIES CAUSED LITTLE SURPRISE OR STIR HERE, WITH MOST OF THE PRESS COVERAGE NOTING THE GROUND WORK THAT PRECEDED IT. MOST ACCOUNTS ALSO COVERED THE PUTATIVE ROLE OF THE SPANISH COMMUNIST PARTY (PCE) CHIEF SANTIAGO CARRILLO WHO ACCORDING TO PRESS AND OTHER SPECULATION SUPPOSEDLY HEADED OFF SUCH A RENEWAL IN MAY 1976 WITH A LAST MINUTE VISIT TO BUCHAREST TO PLEAD THE CASE THAT SUCH A STEP AT THAT TIME WOULD INJURE THE CAUSE OF PCE LEGALIZATION. IN A PRESS RELEASE FOLLOWING NEWS OF THE RENEWED RELATIONS. THE PCE SOUGHT TO KEEP ALIVE THE IDEA OF A PCE VETO BY NOTING THAT CARRILLO HAD SAID IN DECEMBER THAT HE NOW FAVORED SPAIN'S RENEWING RELATIONS WITH THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES. IN FACT, OF COURSE REFTELS HAVE MADE THE POINT THAT THE DETERMINING GO SLOW IMPULSE PROBABLY CAME FROM MOSCOW, WHICH WANTED TO SEE THE POST FRANCO SPANISH POLITICAL SITUATION EVOLVE MORE FIRST.

4. THE BEST BET FOR THE NEXT COUNTRY TO RENEW DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SPAIN IS YUGOSLAVIA, WHOSE DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER DRAGO BERNADIC VISITED HERE JANUARY 20-21 TOPICS REPORTEDLY DISCUSSED RANGED FROM SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN THROUGH BILATERAL SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION TO THE SUPPRESSION OF CROATIAN ACTIVITIES ON SPANISH SOIL. BUT IT SEEMED CLEAR ENOUGH THAT THE REAL TOPIC AT HAND WAS THE RE ESTABLISHMENT OF CONFIDENTIAL

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DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. WITH REGARD TO MOSCOW, SOCIALIST (POPULAR SOCIALIST PARTY) LEADER TIerno GALVAN RETURNED FROM A VISIT TO MOSCOW TO TELL THE SPANISH PRESS THAT THE RENEWAL OF SPANISH USSR TIES COULD COME IN A MATTER OF DAYS. WE ARE NOT SURE THAT IT WILL COME THAT FAST.

5. IN EFFECT SPAIN'S RENEWAL OF RELATIONS WITH THE EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES HAS BEEN GRADUALLY AND INEVITABLY APPROACHING. THE GENERAL EXPECTATION HAS BEEN THAT ROMANIA AND YUGOSLAVIA WOULD COME FIRST AND THE USSR PERHAPS AFTER A FEW OTHER COUNTRIES. SPAIN HAS SHOWN NO HASTE IN THE PROCESS, BUT IT HAS WANTED TO "NORMALIZE ITSELF, TO GET RID OF THE FRANCO ERA AND CIVIL WAR VESTIGES AND PLACE ITSELF ON THE SAME PLANE AS THE OTHER WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. STABLER

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